

By: Miller

H.R. No. 1218

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During the years 1917 to 1919, Texas and Texans
2 played a prominent role in all aspects of the United States'
3 involvement in the Great War; and

4 WHEREAS, Of the approximately 200,000 Texans who served in
5 the military, on land, at sea, and in the air, 5,171 made the
6 ultimate sacrifice for their country during World War I; and

7 WHEREAS, Texans served in the army, navy, and marines, and
8 Texas soldiers formed the army's 36th and 90th Infantry Divisions;
9 the state became a primary training location for numerous National
10 Guard divisions mobilized from other states; Texas was also an
11 early leader in military aviation, with more than a dozen army
12 aviation training and logistics bases established in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, Texans made noteworthy individual, heroic
14 contributions during their military service, and the state produced
15 numerous Medal of Honor recipients, French Croix de Guerre
16 recipients, and aviation aces; after World War I, many Texas
17 veterans went on to make significant contributions in government,
18 industry, the arts, and the military; and

19 WHEREAS, The people of Texas provided essential support to
20 the war effort by producing needed materials, purchasing war bonds
21 and stamps, participating in food conservation programs, and
22 volunteering in civic organizations, such as the Red Cross, the
23 YMCA, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the Salvation Army; Texas
24 industry and agriculture provided livestock, oil, cotton, lumber,

1 shipbuilding, and manufacturing in support of the war effort; and

2 WHEREAS, Texas cities, towns, and counties supported
3 numerous military training facilities that were expanded in San
4 Antonio and El Paso and newly constructed in Houston, Dallas, Fort
5 Worth, Waco, and other locations around the state; students and
6 alumni of Texas' institutions of higher education answered the call
7 to serve in the army, navy, and marines; and

8 WHEREAS, Texas minorities and women served with distinction
9 in an era that often overlooked their contributions; more than
10 31,000 Texas African Americans served in the army during the war, as
11 did a substantial number of Mexican Americans and Native Americans;
12 Texas women served as military service members and as civilian
13 nurses, Red Cross volunteers, and communications specialists; and

14 WHEREAS, Both public and private organizations in Texas have
15 preserved the historical landmarks, exhibits, and artifacts
16 related to the state's prominent role in World War I, including
17 Battleship *Texas*, Hangar 9, and various museum exhibits; and

18 WHEREAS, Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice are at the
19 forefront of commemorations of the war; all veterans, communities,
20 and civilians around the state made sacrifices that helped win the
21 war and ultimately propelled the United States and Texas onto the
22 world stage; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2013, the United States, through an act of
24 Congress and the establishment of the World War I Centennial
25 Commission, initiated actions to recognize the 100th anniversary of
26 the nation's many sacrifices during World War I; and

27 WHEREAS, The Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration

1 Association has championed the recognition of the role of Texas and
2 Texans in the Great War; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize the commemoration of the centennial of
5 World War I; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared as an
7 expression of gratitude to those Texans who served in World War I
8 and the Texas civilians who worked as part of the war effort and in
9 appreciation for communities and organizations that seek to
10 commemorate the centennial of the war through various actions and
11 initiatives during the period of recognition between April 2017,
12 the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into the war, and
13 June 2019, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of
14 Versailles.